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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,494	01/28/2002	William P. Cramer	20011CR	2287
7590	10/06/2004		EXAMINER	
Herman H. Bains Attorney 6101 Tracy Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55436			LAGMAN, FREDERICK LYNDON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3673	

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/056,494	CRAMER, WILLIAM P. 30
	Examiner Frederick L. Lagman	Art Unit 3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/28/04
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: lines 6-7, the recitation of "and interstate highways of the United States extending generally in an east-west direction" is redundant. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Colonial Pipeline Company website pages including sections entitled "Terminalling Services," "About Us," and "System Map." Colonial Pipeline Company discloses a petroleum distribution system that includes supply lines below the ground surface, such supply lines include pumping stations i.e. terminals. The system map shows the distribution system passing through several states and it would be inherent that should the pipeline system need to pass or parallel an interstate highway, that proper "permission" is acquired. The claims also do not specify a specific length of pipeline. Therefore, with the length of underground pipe and all of the interstates traversing the U.S., the pipeline would definitely extend below

and immediately adjacent the highways for at least some undetermined finite length. In the alternative, it would have been obvious matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art to place a pipeline under the median of a highway, since doing would facilitate laying out of the pipeline from a "point a" to a "point b", for example. As to the product being electricity, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide an electricity as an energy product, since the use of electricity is well known and lines for electricity are known to be provided underground for fiber optics and telecommunications for example.

4. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Federal Highway Administration Program Guide entitled, "Utility Relocations, Adjustments, and Accommodation on Federal-Aid Highway Projects," hereinto referred to as FHWA. FHWA discloses the provision of utility pipelines along highways right-of-ways, see in particular the last page of the document.

5. Claims 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Building the Future-Proof Telco" by David Diamond. Diamond discloses the placement of fiber optic cable along interstate highways.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 6/28/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The use of pipelines is old and well known whether the pipelines are laid above ground or underground. Furthermore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to lay a pipeline in a median of a road such as an interstate highway system, whether it be for a mile or hundreds of miles. The FHWA discloses the burying

of pipelines. FHWA discloses that although the burying of pipelines is the most aesthetic it also is the most expensive; therefore, it is possible to bury such pipelines. "Building the Future-Proof Telco" discloses the laying of cables along interstate highways. The length would be considered relative, since a vast number of interstate highway systems make up the total of the entire interstate highways of the United States as a whole.

***Conclusion***

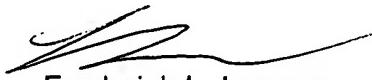
7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick L. Lagman whose telephone number is 703-305-7456. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Schackelford can be reached on 703-308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Frederick L. Lagman  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3673

FLL